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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

79646

7590

12/01/2010

Weaver Austin Villeneuve &amp; Sampson LLP - IGT

Attn: IGT

P.O. Box 70250

Oakland, CA 94612-0250

EXAMINER

KIM, ANDREW

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3716

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,166	03/26/2004	Binh T. Nguyen	IGT1P104/P00897-001	8341

TITLE OF INVENTION: UNIVERSAL GAMING ENGINE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/01/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
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**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

79646 7590 12/01/2010

**Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP - IGT**  
**Attn: IGT**  
**P.O. Box 70250**  
**Oakland, CA 94612-0250**

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/810,166	03/26/2004	Binh T. Nguyen	IGTIP104/P000897-001	8341
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TITLE OF INVENTION: UNIVERSAL GAMING ENGINE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/01/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
KIM, ANDREW	3716	463-016000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP - IGT  
Attn: IGT  
P.O. Box 70250  
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## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 773 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 773 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/810,166

**Applicant(s)**

NGUYEN ET AL.

**Examiner**

ANDREW KIM

**Art Unit**

3716

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 11/8/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7, 10-17, 19-25, 27, 30-33, 35, and 38-40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Dmitry Suhol/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3716

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 11/8/2010, 11/18/2010.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christian Scholz on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, comprising:

a master gaming controller adapted to control game play and authorize payouts and other awards on said gaming machine, said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of [[the]] said gaming machine, said main cabinet having a first communications interface having a first configuration or arrangement;

a top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices and a second communications interface having a second configuration or arrangement, [[the]] said top box adapted to be removable from said gaming machine and interchangeable with other top boxes also so adapted; and

a modular universal gaming engine located outside said main cabinet and said top box, said modular universal gaming engine having at least one dedicated processing unit, at least one

associated storage device, a third communications interface adapted to connect with said first communications interface, and a fourth communications interface adapted to connect with said second communications interface, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said top box, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box.

2. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said top box is adapted to detach from said main cabinet.

3. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 2, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to remain attached to said gaming machine despite any detachment of said top box.

4. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is interposed between said main cabinet and said top box, and said top box and said modular universal gaming engine are adapted to detach from said main cabinet as a combined unit.

5. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 4, wherein said top box is adapted to detach from said modular universal gaming engine.

Art Unit: 3716

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control all peripheral devices on said top box.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control all of said plurality of peripheral devices on [[the]] said top box.

11. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said modular universal gaming engine contains a power supply adapted to provide power to said top box.

12. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said modular universal gaming engine comprises a communications buffer between said master gaming controller and [[a]] said substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices on said top box.

13. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said at least one dedicated processing unit comprises a central processing unit residing on said modular universal gaming engine.



14. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 13, wherein said central processing unit contains resident operating system code adapted to control functions associated with said modular universal gaming engine and facilitate communications between said modular universal gaming engine and said master gaming controller.

15. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 14, wherein said resident operating system code is specifically approved for use in said gaming machine by a gaming jurisdiction.

16. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 14, wherein said resident operating system code is selected from the group of operating system codes consisting of Windows CE Embedded, Windows XP, Linux, MontaVista Linux, and QNX.

17. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said plurality of peripheral devices comprises one or more devices selected from the group consisting of a video display unit, a speaker, an audio amplifier, a light, a touch screen, an input button, a coin acceptor, a bill acceptor, a ticket acceptor, a coin hopper, a coin dispenser, a ticket printer, a card reader and a mechanical motor.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1, wherein said second configuration or arrangement comprises a standardized layout of physical connections that is consistent across a plurality of other modular universal gaming engines.

20. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein said standardized layout of physical connections comprises a grid of ported connections.

21. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein said standardized layout of physical connections comprises a power connection adapted to provide power across a mating of [[the]] said second communications interface and [[the]] said fourth communications interface.

22. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, comprising:

a processing means for controlling game play and authorizing payouts and other awards on said gaming machine, said processing means located in a main cabinet of [[the]] said gaming machine and communicatively connected with a first communications interface located on [[the]] said main cabinet, said first communications interface having a first configuration or arrangement;

a housing means for housing a plurality of peripheral devices associated with said gaming machine and a second communications interface, said housing means being removable from said main cabinet and interchangeable with other similar housing means also so adapted, said plurality of peripheral devices communicatively connected with said second communications

interface, and said second communications interface having a second configuration or arrangement; and

a modular universal engine means for controlling a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices housed by said housing means, said modular universal engine means located outside said main cabinet and said housing means, said modular universal engine means including a third communications interface and a fourth communications interface, said third communications interface adapted to connect with said first communications interface, and said fourth communications interface adapted to connect with said second communications interface, wherein said modular universal engine means are located substantially behind said main cabinet, said housing means, or said main cabinet and said housing means.

23. (Currently Amended) A system of gaming machines adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, comprising:

at least one computer server, said at least one computer server having a program adapted to provide data regarding individual modular universal gaming engines, top boxes of gaming machines, or both; and

a plurality of gaming machines in communication with said at least one computer server, wherein at least one first gaming machine of said plurality of gaming machines comprises:

a master gaming controller adapted to control game play and authorize payouts and other awards on said at least one first gaming machine, said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of [[the]] said at least one first gaming machine and

communicatively connected with a first communications interface located on said main cabinet, said first communications interface having a first configuration or arrangement;

a top box, wherein said top box contains a plurality of peripheral devices and a second communications interface, is adapted to be removable from said at least one first gaming machine, and is interchangeable with other top boxes also so adapted, wherein said plurality of peripheral devices are communicatively connected with said second communications interface, said second communications interface having a second configuration or arrangement; and

a modular universal gaming engine located outside said main cabinet and said top box, said modular universal gaming engine having at least one dedicated processing unit, at least one associated storage device, a third communications interface, and a fourth communications interface, wherein said third communications interface is connected with said first communications interface, said fourth communications interface is connected with said second communications interface, and said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said ~~removable and interchangeable~~ top box, wherein said top box is removable and interchangeable, and wherein said modular universal gaming engine is located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said data regarding individual universal gaming engines, top boxes of gaming machines, or both comprises

one or more informational items for such devices, said one or more informational items selected from the group consisting of current location, past locations, time in service, number of retrofits, repair status, included peripheral devices, peripheral device configurations and overall thematic nature of said device.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said top box is adapted to detach from said main cabinet.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control [[a]] said substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said top box.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control all of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said top box of said at least one first gaming machine.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said at least one dedicated processing unit comprises a central processing unit residing on said modular universal

gaming engine, said central processing unit containing resident operating system code adapted to control functions associated with said modular universal gaming engine and facilitate communications between said modular universal gaming engine and said master gaming controller, wherein said resident operating system code is specifically approved for use in said at least one first gaming machine by a gaming jurisdiction.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of gaming machines of claim 23, wherein said first configuration or arrangement comprises a standardized layout of physical connections that is consistent across a plurality of other modular universal gaming engines.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of replacing a top box of a gaming machine adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, the method comprising:

providing [[a]] said gaming machine having

a master gaming controller adapted to control game play and authorize payouts and other awards on said gaming machine, said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of [[the]] said gaming machine and communicatively connected with a first communications interface located on [[the]] said main cabinet, said first communications interface having a first configuration or arrangement,

[[a]] said top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices and a second communications interface, said top box adapted to be removable from said gaming machine and interchangeable with other top boxes also so adapted, said second communications interface having a second configuration or arrangement, and

a modular universal gaming engine located outside said main cabinet and said top box, said modular universal gaming engine having at least one dedicated processing unit, at least one associated storage device, a third communications interface, and a fourth communications interface, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices on said top box, said third communications interface is connected with said first communications interface, and said fourth communications interface is connected with said second communications interface, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box;  
removing said top box from said gaming machine; and  
installing a second top box on said gaming machine.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control ~~[[a]]~~ said substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said top box.

36-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method of changing a game theme on a gaming machine adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, ~~[[the]]~~ said method comprising:

providing [[a]] said gaming machine having

a master gaming controller adapted to control game play and authorize payouts and other awards on said gaming machine, said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of [[the]] said gaming machine and communicatively connected with a first communications interface located on said main cabinet, said first communications interface having a first configuration or arrangement,

a top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices and a second communications interface, said top box adapted to be removable from said gaming machine and interchangeable with other top boxes also so adapted, said second communications interface having a second configuration or arrangement, and

a modular universal gaming engine located outside said main cabinet and said top box, said modular universal gaming engine having at least one dedicated processing unit, at least one associated storage device, a third communications interface, and a fourth communications interface, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices on said ~~removable and interchangeable~~ top box, where said top box is removable and interchangeable, said third communications interface is adapted to connect with said first communications interface, and said fourth communications interface is adapted to connect with said second communications interface, wherein said modular universal gaming engine is located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box;



removing said top box from said gaming machine, said top box comprising one or more items dedicated toward a first game theme; and

installing a second top box on said gaming machine, said second top box comprising one or more items dedicated toward a second game theme different from said first game theme.

39. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein said peripheral devices contained by said top box include all of the following: a video display, one or more speakers, a plurality of bulbs, a separate progressive jackpot display, and a ticket printer.

40. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 39 wherein said video display has a video controller, said plurality of bulbs ~~[[have]]~~ has a separate light controller, said separate progressive jackpot display has its own specialized controller, and said ticket printer has a printer controller.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A thorough search for prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, "a modular universal gaming engine located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box" in combination with "four communications interfaces" in combination with "said modular universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices contained by said top box."

The closest prior art is Mastera et al. (US Pat. No. 6,314,666 B1). Mastera discloses a gaming machine with main and secondary displays with a secondary display controlled by a second controller within the top box. However, Mastera structurally and functionally lacks the

means for providing a modular universal gaming engine located substantially behind said main cabinet, said top box, or said main cabinet and said top box. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 22, 23, 33 and 38 and the claims dependent thereon are allowed over Mastera or any other prior art of record, taken alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-1691. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on 571-272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dmitry Suhol/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
3716

11/24/2010 /A. K./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3714